

May 20, 2011

William Cole Storm  
MN. Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East  
Suite 500  
St. Paul Minnesota 55101-2198

Re: GRE-MP Savanna HVTL Project - **PUC DOCKET # TL-10-1307**

Bill,

I attended the meeting at the Fine Lakes Township Hall on Wednesday May 18 in regards to the new 115 kV transmission line route that is proposed to run along the west side of Stremel Road in Van Buren Township. My family owns 160 acres in T. 52N , R. 20W in the NE. ¼ of Section 29 and also 75 acres in the E ½ of the NE. 1/4 of Section 20. In section 29 our concerns are that the clearing limits of the proposed route are going to obliterate a substantial amount of mature tamarack trees and encroach on a family memorial within this stand of trees. This area is in the SE ¼ of the NE ¼. After measuring off of the staked line for the new pole locations we would lose approximately 42 feet of these trees to maintain their 50 ft clear zone on each side of the pole.

On the next 40 acres to the north, NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of section 29, we planted 500 white pines of which approximately 100 of these would be in the right of way and would have to be removed. As these trees mature another 100 would probably have to be removed or limbed as their branches would encroach on the new right of way.

The NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of section 20 consists primarily of black spruce. The right of way for the existing 69kV line was cleared three years ago and we lost 25 feet of these trees at that time. With the new pole locations moved over another 20 feet we are now going to lose another 45 feet of these trees and not just on the south to north stretch along Stremel Road but also on the east to west stretch along Parantala Road.

I would like to propose that the new route be moved from the west side of Stremel Road to the east side from the new Savanna 115 kV Switching Station in Section 32 going north to the corner of Parantala and Stremel Road. This route impacts less private land as there is some county tax forfeited land on this side versus all private property on the west side. I understand that the existing 69kV line has to remain

energized while the new line is being constructed and that there has to be a separation between the old and new to keep them from arcing. If the new line is moved to the east side of the road then this would increase that separation and give the crew substantially more room to safely perform their work. This would eliminate the need for widening an already wide ROW and the clearing of more trees from the properties where the current transmission line runs.

While we realize that the increased demand for electricity requires updates and modernization of the old transmission line, we would like to see it accomplished in a way that would minimize more tree loss and property damage. Although it concerned us, we did not make an issue three years ago when they cut the trees to clear for the existing line but now the thought of losing more and at a larger scale, it makes it a little tougher this time around. Please take our concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Brad Lund  
6254 Simi Road  
Floodwood Minnesota 55736  
218-476-2851